



News Release

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St. Louis Corps District Completes Mississippi River Lock Closures as river rises

The Mississippi River, which has approached or exceeded historic levels in Iowa, is continuing to send a growing swell of water southward. Closer to St. Louis, the Corps announced today that Locks 24 and 25 at Clarksville and Winfield, Missouri were officially declared closed at 4 p.m. today and technicians are beginning to remove critical electrical components to protect them from rising waters at the two facilities. Kaskaskia Lock and Dam, on the Kaskaskia River remains open, but is scheduled to close Sunday, June 15.

Mr. Andy Schimpf, who heads up the District's Rivers Project Office and oversees operations at the locks praised navigation industry interests for cooperating and vacating the navigation pools ahead of schedule to allow the locks to close earlier.

The St. Louis District again sent flood fight teams into the field north of St. Louis and area engineer representatives south of St. Louis. The teams, small technical units, are working closely with operators of levees and public works and emergency offices of counties and municipalities to provide technical advice and ascertain needs for materials such as sand bags and plastic sheeting. Those latter items are distributed to government offices which, in turn, make them available to individuals. The engineers going south are talking to levee district and government officials to make initial preparation to counter rising water in coming days.

The St. Louis District Emergency Operations Center began 24 hour operations today to continue to monitor the situation and to be better prepared to take action if that becomes necessary. Along sections of the Mississippi River north of St. Louis, some stages are still being predicted to approach levels equaling or exceeding record numbers from 1993.

To date during the current high water event, the St. Louis District has issued 498,000 sand bags, including 148,000 today alone, and 182 rolls of sheet plastic to local emergency operations offices to be ready to be used in flood fighting efforts.

The National Weather Service, US Geological Service and Army Corps of Engineers are continuing to cooperate regionally to capture field observations during these events to better refine and calibrate predictive computer models for the future.

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St. Louis COE Flood Fight/2-2-2

Although the rising rivers are also attracting a lot of attention, they are treacherous in their current and predicted states. Do not wade, swim or boat in them.

The Corps in St. Louis also continues to urge people who live or travel near the rivers to continue to monitor water levels and in particular, not to drive into water covered roads. They should turn back and take longer routes if necessary. There are no short cuts to safety.

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Note to editors: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts are organized along watershed boundaries. Additional information for areas on the Mississippi River upstream of Lock and Dam 22 and, on the Illinois River, upstream of LaGrange Lock and Dam can contact the Rock Island District Public Affairs Office at 309-794-5274.

Based on current river predictions, the following locks in the Rock Island District are closed or are scheduled to close today:

- Thursday, June 12:
Lock 16 (Illinois City, Ill. – River Mile 457.2)
Lock 17 (New Boston, Ill. – River Mile 437.1)
Lock 18 (Gladstone, Ill. – River Mile 410.5)
Lock 20 (Canton, Mo. – River Mile 343.2)
- Friday June 13:
Lock 13 (Fulton, Ill. – River Mile 522.5)
Lock 14 Auxiliary Lock (Pleasant Valley, Iowa – River Mile 493.3)
Lock 21 (Quincy, Ill. – River Mile 324.9)
Lock 22 (Saverton, Mo. – River Mile 301.2)
- Saturday 14:
Lock 12 (Bellevue, Ill. – River Mile 556.7)
Lock 14 Main Lock (Pleasant Valley, Iowa – River Mile 493.3)
Lock 15 (Rock Island, Ill. – River Mile 483)
Lock 19 (Keokuk, Iowa – River Mile 364.2)